

Response
Serial No. 10/647,247
Attorney Docket No. 031029

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Foreign Priority

A verified translation of the certified priority document, Japanese application no. 2002-248379 filed August 28, 2002, is attached. Applicants submit that the claim for foreign priority has been perfected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Choi* (US Patent 6,818,384); claims 1, 6, 14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Arita* (US Patent 6,905,949); claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Nozaki* (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0170571); and claims 1-11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Choi*. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The claim for foreign priority has been perfected, and the Applicants now rely on the foreign priority date of August 28, 2002. The priority document pre-dates the § 102(e) dates of *Choi*, *Arita*, and *Nozaki*. *Choi* was filed on October 8, 2002, *Arita* was filed on August 6, 2003, and *Nozaki* was filed on November 8, 2002.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(e) and § 103(a) rejections based on *Choi*, *Arita* and *Nozaki* is hereby solicited.

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In view of the remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Certified English translation of the Priority Document